

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Connell et al. DOCKET: ALT-5604D CONT of DIV III
SERIAL NO.: 09/689,503 ART UNIT: 1723
DATE FILED: October 12, 2000 EXAMINER: J. Drodge
INVENTION: "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR KIDNEY DIALYSIS"

#11
7-17-01 SK

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington DC, 20231

Sir:

**PETITION TO DELETE CORRECTLY NAMED ORIGINAL PERSONS WHO ARE
NOT INVENTORS OF INVENTION NOW BEING CLAIMED (37 CFR § 1.48(b))**

This petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.48(b) is being submitted to delete the names of certain persons originally named as inventors in the above-identified patent application. This petition is submitted because certain persons identified below are not the inventors of the invention now being claimed.

The only claims pending in the above-identified patent application are subject to a Notice of Allowance dated March 21, 2001. Applicants have not yet paid the issue fee which is due on or before June 21, 2001. Applicants respectfully request that the following names be deleted from the list of inventors:

Mark E. Connell
Robert A. Bedient
Raymond Elsen
Dalibor J. Smejtek

Accordingly, the following individuals should be listed as inventors of the above-identified patent application and any patent issuing therefrom:

Michael E. Hogard
Harley D. Johnson
Thomas D. Kelly
Jean McEvoy Long
Bruce A. Peterson

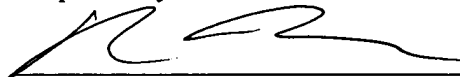
William G. Preston, Jr.

Applicants note that the allowed claims are Claims 30-54. These claims were added by a Preliminary Amendment filed on October 12, 2000. Pursuant to the Preliminary Amendment, all of the pending claims, Claims 1-29, were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 30-54 were thereby added. Additionally, Claim 30 was amended on March 16, 2001 by Examiner's Amendment.

This petition is being filed diligently after the undersigned discovered that Mark E. Connell, Robert A. Bedient, Raymond Elsen, and Dalibor J. Smejtek were not inventors of the subject matter now being claimed. In particular, after receiving a Notice of Allowance from the Patent and Trademark Office, the undersigned conducted an investigation to determine the proper inventors. In this regard, telephone conversations were conducted between the undersigned attorney and Tom Kelly and Mark Connell. During the telephone conversations, each of the claims that were allowed were explored and each of the inventors identified in the copy of the Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney that was filed with the above-identified patent application were considered. During the telephone conversations the proper inventors for the subject matter now being claimed in the above-identified patent application were determined.

Applicants are also submitting herewith the requisite fee of \$130.00 under 37 CFR 1.17(i). To the extent any additional fees are due and owing in view of this communication, Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office charge deposit account no. 02-1818. Further, to the extent the Patent Office requires any further information or documentation regarding this matter, Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully Submitted:



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